

Sighting of Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) at Kumbharwada Wetland, Bhavnagar

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On the morning of 23rd January 2023, we were doing our birdwatching at Kumbharwada wetland Near Bhavnagar city. The first author sighted a different-looking wader through binocular foraging in a swamp area of wetland. We took a photograph of it. After seeing the photographs, we concluded that it looks like Dowitcher but cannot finalize which one. Then we send photos to senior birdwatchers Jaidevbhai Dhadhal, Kandarp Andharia and Prasad Ganpule and confirmed the bird as Long-billed Dowitcher. We are delighted to find this rarity in the Kumbharwada wetland, Bhavnagar. Subsequently, many birdwatchers from Bhavnagar and other places visited the Kumbharwada wetland and observed this bird at the Same place up to 2nd February 2023. (ebird website).

Referring to its status and distribution in the world 'Fairly

common breeding in arctic beyond tree limit usually near fresh water: in eastern Siberia from the Yana east to western Alaska and north-west Canada. Non-breeding in freshwater wetlands south from California, Virginia, Gulf Coast and Central America to Panama; rarely Hawaii. Regular vagrant to Europe and much less commonly as far east as India' (Chandler 2009). There are a few records of Long-billed Dowitcher in India, in 10 different places (ebird website). In Gujarat, this record is the third one. Earlier Sightings (two) from Marine National Park, near Jamnagar (Froster & Lindholm 2008) and Khijadiya in 2012 (Unpublished photo of Single bird by Laurens Steijn- see Indian Birds 8 (4): 101-103, Photos available) (Ganpule 2016). So, its status and distribution in Gujarat is "Vagrant-Winter. Isolated records from coastal parts of Saurashtra (Ganpule et al. 2022).

Kumbharwada wetland of Bhavnagar is the host of thousands of resident and wintering birds every year, various species of wetland birds, like Geese, Pochards, Ducks, Storks, Teals, wintering raptors and many species of waders. Wetland is degraded by human interference. So, in our view, this wetland should be declared a Ramsar site as it is also eligible.

References

Chandler, R. 2009. Shorebirds of North America, Europe, and Asia: 313-314 pp.

Ganpule, P. 2016. The birds of Gujarat: Status and Distribution. *Flamingo* 8(3) -12(4):16

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Sighting of Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) in Bandiya Beli, Mandav Reserve Forest

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An Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) was sighted for the first time at Bandiya Beli, part of Mandav Reserved Forest under Surendranagar division, on May 15, 2022, the day after Cyclone Tauktae hit Gujarat on May 14, 2022. The first author made the first sighting, and later confirmed by the second author. The hornbill was seen at the same place for three

consecutive days. During this period, the bird preferred to sit on Banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*) and Peepal (*Ficus tsiela*) trees. Most of the time, birds were observed eating the fruits that were lying on the ground under these two trees. The sighting was made for two consecutive days, while no sighting was made on the third day. Bandiya Beli patch of forest houses a